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# ARA NEWS

anti-racist action • po box 82097 • columbus, ohio 43202

614.424.9074 • ara@coil.com

January 26, 1998

"justice then peace"

free!!!

## "RACE WAR" IN DENVER

It was nearly midnight. One routine bus transfer would get Jeannie Van Velkinburgh home to bed. When the white guys began harassing the black man seated next to her at the desolate downtown Denver bus stop, **Jeannie had every reason to look the other way.** Exhaustion from working a double shift. Two sleeping children at home. And memories of a tough childhood, including taunts from black kids.

But, when the guy with the shaved head knocked the black man's cap off and asked him, "Are you ready to die like a nigger?" Jeannie didn't hesitate. She didn't ponder what to do or try to slip away. Her mother raised her to believe that helping people and fighting injustice was her responsibility.

**She never even saw the gun.** As she moved to pick up the cap and give help, Jeannie heard the shots. She felt the searing pain beneath her Colorado Avalanche hockey jacket as she fell. She saw the black man, Oumar Dia, a West African immigrant and a Hyatt Hotel bellhop, lying bleeding in the dingy glow of a street lamp. She tried to crawl to him but she couldn't move. In a matter of seconds, Mr. Dia's life was gone. Jeannie was paralyzed from the waist down, a bullet having severed her spine.

Three days later, racist-skinhead Nathan Thill, 19, admitted to shooting them both. A self-proclaimed white supremacist, Thill called himself a "race warrior" and said he is a "national socialist—a nazi."

In a chilling television interview, Thill said he and Mark Barnum, 24, had been drinking in a nearby lounge. They left, walked to the 16th Street Mall and then came upon the bus stop. He recounted his thoughts: **"I'd seen the black guy at the bus stop and I kind of just thought to myself how he really didn't belong where he was at, and I thought how easy it would be for me to just take him out right there. Didn't seem like much to me."**

This nazi was equally cold in his description of the shooting of Ms. Van Velkinburgh. "I had a witness that had to be taken care of," he told Channel 7. "I shot her a couple of times. She

became my enemy within that minute because she witnessed it and she could take me down. I've thought about it as in a war; anybody who gets caught in the enemy's uniform is the enemy and should be taken out." After the shooting, Thill and Barnum went to a Colfax Avenue cafe, where they harassed a white man walking with a black man. They were arrested on November 21.



### BONEHEAD BATTLEZONE

The shootings of Dia (pronounced JAH) and Van Velkinburgh were not isolated incidents in the Denver area. In September, two racist skinheads (referred to as "boneheads") were accused of attacking a black motorist. **Witnesses said that the men deliberately drove into the black man's car and then beat him when he got out to check on the damage to his vehicle.** The men were shouting, "We want to kill niggers." On November 7, two heavily armed neo-nazis were arrested after a car chase with police.

Then, on November 12, Denver police officer Bruce Vanderjagt was killed following a high-speed chase and shoot-out with neo-nazi Matt Jaehnig. It began with reports of a burglary by

Jaehnig and 3 others. Following a car chase, Jaehnig entered an apartment complex and police followed. Officer Vanderjagt was shot 15 times. Jaehnig then killed himself with the policeman's gun.

Dia and Van Velkinburgh were attacked at the bus stop on November 18. Just three hours later, a dead pig with officer Vanderjagt's name on it was found in the parking lot of his district police substation. Police received numerous threatening calls from people using "Germanic references" such as those often used by nazis.

Two nights later, police received a routine prowler call in West Denver. Officer Gregory Vacca responded and was ambushed by hidden assailants with semiautomatic weapons. He was not hit. Police later arrested nazi bonehead Steven Duprey, 29, and found him in possession of cocaine, methamphetamine—and a 9mm semiautomatic handgun tucked in his waistband. Shell casings found at the scene where officer Vacca was ambushed matched the gun Duprey was carrying. The shaven-headed Duprey was wearing a wig at the time of his arrest.

On November 25, three white men in Grand Junction, CO shouted racial insults at a black man, then attacked him with a baseball bat and a steel pipe. Victim Charles Ferribee, 32, escaped with a bloody nose. All three attackers were arrested.

**In another frightening development, it appears that the nazis may have had a sympathizer on the police force.** The Denver police department is investigating an officer for allegedly fraternizing with racist boneheads, and even giving them confidential information about police investigations.

### ANTI-RACISTS ARRESTED

Most skinheads are NOT racist. Some of the coolest, most serious ARA activists are skins. In spite of this fact, **the media has been amazingly stubborn in their effort to "inform" people that skinhead equals nazi.** Predictably, the incidents in Denver reinforced this unfair stereotype.

(See Denver, page 3)





# "Others Unknown"

## The Nazi Conspiracy in the Oklahoma City Bombing

When Terry Nichols and Tim McVeigh were charged with the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, the grand jury specifically mentioned "others unknown" in the indictment. Recent developments suggest they were right. The bombing may have been discussed, planned and executed by a much wider neo-nazi network.

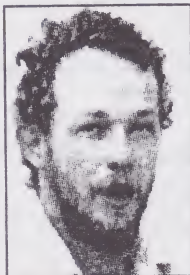
### The Kehoe Connection

In January, the F.B.I. announced it is investigating whether another white supremacist, Chevie Kehoe, knew about the Oklahoma City bombing before it happened! Kehoe, presently awaiting trial for a string of crimes in Ohio and Arkansas, may also have met with Oklahoma bomber Tim McVeigh months before the April 19 blast.

A former manager of The Shadows Motel near Spokane, Washington says that Kehoe stayed at the motel. He reports that "days before the bombing, he had mentioned to me that there's going to be something happening on the 19th and its going to wake people up." According to the manager, Kehoe was "ecstatic" when a news bulletin reported the explosion and deaths, saying "it was about time."

The manager has also told authorities that Kehoe arranged to have another man stay at the motel a few months before the Oklahoma City bombing. "I was introduced to a gentleman named Tim and I now believe he was Tim McVeigh." The manager described him as tall and slender with a military-style haircut.

Chevie Kehoe faces trial in Ohio for a shootout with the police near the Aryan Nations headquarters in New Vienna, Ohio. He is also charged with several crimes in Arkansas, committed as part of an effort to create an all-white nation, the Aryan Peoples Republic.



Chevie Kehoe

### Nichols Trial Bombshells

More proof of a terrorist conspiracy emerged in the trial of Terry Nichols. In a press conference shortly after the guilty verdict, the jury forewoman gave new voice to concerns about a broader conspiracy. "I think a decision was made early on that McVeigh and Nichols were the ones they were looking for. The same resources were not used to try and find out who else might be responsible," Niki Deutchman said.

During Nichols' trial, nearly two dozen different witnesses offered various descriptions of other people they saw with McVeigh at key places and times in the days before the bombing. None of these individuals matched Nichols' description. At a Kansas truck rental company, for example, employees say another man was with McVeigh when he rented the Ryder truck used in the bombing. Other witnesses reported seeing at least one other man with McVeigh just before the bomb was detonated.

McVeigh's trial lawyer, Stephen Jones, is writing a book exploring the involvement of other possible racist suspects. Jones is expected to elaborate on evidence he was not allowed to introduce at trial indicating that terrorist attacks, including Oklahoma City, may have been planned in the white supremacist compound at Elohim City, OK.

A state grand jury has already begun investigating various conspiracy questions. One neo-nazi brought before the grand jury said he would refuse to testify because it might incriminate him. But that man, Dennis Mahon, who operates a dial-a-racist hotline and who is a member of the White Aryan Resistance, denied he was involved in the bombing that killed 168 people.

### Jury Finds Kehoe Brother Guilty

In a related development, Chevie Kehoe's little brother, Cheyne, recently went to trial in Ohio on charges arising from his much televised gunfight with the police. He told the jury he was an innocent victim of his brother's bad influence. He testified that "Chevie asked me to get involved in the Aryan Peoples Republic, a white supremacist movement." Cheyne said his brother had talked about his involvement in the murders of an Arkansas gun dealer, his wife, and their 8 year-old daughter.



Cheyne Kehoe

So much for fascist family loyalty. But this effort to blame brother Chevie didn't fool the jury. They convicted Cheyne on four charges, including attempted murder of a deputy sheriff. He faces over 25 years in prison. After his conviction, the younger Kehoe told authorities, "I do have knowledge of my brother's involvement in the bombing of a federal building." Stay tuned. There's bound to be more revelations in the near future about the fascist connections to terrorism—and Oklahoma City in particular.



## ANTI-RACIST PRISONER NEEDS HELP

Chris Plummer is an ARA supporter imprisoned in Texas. He was convicted of "breaking and entering" for his part in trashing a nazi gang's clubhouse. No one was hurt during this action and only the racist hate literature was destroyed.

Chris has continued organizing in prison. He set up the Texas Prisoners Anarchist Lending Library. Last March, guards confiscated and then "lost" all the books. Chris had been receiving death threats from racist gangs and was recently attacked. They broke his jaw and cheekbone.

The authorities have punished Chris for supporting the rights of other prisoners. He has been subjected to repeated strip searches and cell searches, sometimes every half-hour. Now he's being threatened with more criminal charges.

We all should take a few minutes to help this strong ARA brother. Destroying nazi trash is a public service, not a crime. Write letters of support asking the prison to leave Chris alone. No new charges, no more harassment. Let them know we're watching.

**Call or write to: Wayne Scott, Director/TDC, P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77342, (409) 295-6371**

Also, please drop Chris a line. Your letter may help him through this—and a financial donation will help his support committee:

Christopher Lee Plummer  
#677345  
Hughes Unit  
Route 2, Box 4400  
Gatesville, TX 76597

Chris Plummer  
Support Group  
P.O. Box 416591  
Key West, FL 33041  
(305) 293-1186



(Denver, continued from page 1)

Colorado news reports bombarded the public with stories about the dangerous "skinhead movement." Even the President got in the act. Clinton denounced "the skinhead violence in Denver" and said a federal probe was underway. **This kind of rhetoric caused anti-racist skins in Colorado and elsewhere to catch a lot of hell from people who mistakenly thought they were confronting nazis.** Those good intentions were little consolation to the skinheads victimized by this unfair discrimination. In Denver, this confusion even led to the arrest and jailing of anti-racists for an alleged hate-crime.

In the midst of the bonehead crime spree, a group of 6 young friends decided to walk down to the local convenient store for cigarettes. Some of them are skinheads, some of them aren't. Several of them are supporters of ARA and RASH (Red & Anarchist Skinheads) who are active against racism. Once in the store, they were approached by a black woman who got upset when she saw them. "Are you skinheads? Are you skinheads?" she yelled. She eventually struck one of the women in the group. Several of the anti-racists were arrested for "investigation of ethnic intimidation." The Denver media reported this as a hate crime. Once again repeating a stereotype, the *New York Times* headline on November 29 read "Skinheads Beat Up Black at 7-11."

Fortunately, no charges were filed against our friends. The video and audio tape from the store

were "inconsistent with the allegations" police said. This incident did give anti-racist skinheads a chance to publicize their existence and their views. Members of ARA were quoted in local and national news coverage saying "Being a skinhead has nothing to do with racism or nazis. We're just working-class kids who like the same type of music and like to hang out and have fun. Nazis are an abomination of the true skinhead culture. We do our best to fight racism."

#### THE PEOPLE SPEAK

**It's tough to find a silver lining in stories about race hate and murder, but there were some signs of hope. Nearly 2000 people attended a rally against racism in downtown Denver, and there were meetings and rallies on local campuses. One speaker, a professor named**

*The Denver police department is investigating an officer for allegedly fraternizing with racist boneheads and even giving them confidential information about police investigations.*

Rob Prince, said "The failure of my generation was to defeat this ogre of racism. We did what we could. Now it's your turn. The working class of America is not only white. He (the racist gunman) killed somebody who was going home after work at a hotel. **He killed his class brother.**" "Why must people die before people recognize that racism still exists?", asked 24 year-old college student Anthony Grayson. "Why can't they have rallies like this *before* something happens?"

The Colorado community of West African immigrants pulled together to honor the memory of Oumar Dia. They described him as an honest, hard-working father of 3 who came to the U.S. to make a better life for his family. "We have a strong community here in Colorado, and we knew him as a good person. We were all shocked."

And then there is good samaritan Jeannie Van Velkinburgh. She spends much of her time these days lifting weights to build arm and shoulder strength so she can maneuver the weight of her lifeless lower body from bed to wheelchair. Astonishingly, she says she has no regrets about stepping in to help a stranger. "My mother put me on this earth to help people, not to take people's lives. If everybody would work together as a team instead of enemies, our world would go a lot better."

About the boneheads who murdered Dia and paralyzed her, Jeannie says "I hope they get life without parole. Why give them the death penalty? They should spend the rest their lives thinking about what they did to that man and what they did to me. Anyway, they ain't stopped me from here up" she says, pointing to her waist.

Tomorrow and everyday when you wake up, remember these victims of racial hatred. **Do something about it.** Help build the ARA movement. And when the cynics tell you it's stupid to try, or that it's better to ignore the nazis, tell them about Oumar Dia and Jeannie Van Velkinburgh. One black. One white. Both victims of the "race war."

## Mayhem in Memphis: Cops Cause a Riot

Where there are Klan rallies, there are protesters. There are also police. Lots of police. And, occasionally at some point in the rally, the cops will go into battle-mode, teargassing and indiscriminately arresting protesters. That happened in Hamilton, OH, last fall. And that's what happened January 17, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, in Memphis, TN. As a result, what started as a beautiful, vocal protest of over 500 anti-racists turned into a small riot.

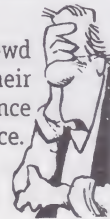
According to many media reports on the events in Memphis, the 'disturbance' was caused by 'gang members' and 'people who burned a confederate flag' during the rally. Neither of these factors had anything to do with starting the riot. Things started when the cops overreacted to protesters who were trying to get to the Klan, even though Klan members were never seriously in danger.

**Instead of just keeping the two sides apart, the police decided to gas the entire crowd.** This turned a manageable protest against the Klan into a chaotic situation that left everyone fearing for their safety. I saw around 15 gas canisters at different points in downtown Memphis. That isn't 'crowd control', that's 'out-of control'.



After the first round of gas grenades, the Klansmen were spirited away from the area while the protesters were left to endure the painful sensations that teargas produces, like loss of sight, difficulty in breathing and burning skin. The Klan was probably long out of Memphis while the cops continued to drive their cruisers recklessly through downtown streets without regard for who or what was in front of them.

We don't want our protests turning into cop riots. And those in the crowd who trashed innocent peoples' cars and small businesses were misdirecting their anger. But the riot in Memphis was not our fault. It was caused by the presence of organized hate and the reckless actions of the Klan's protectors, the police.





## California

**8.6.97**  
**Sacramento** — Gov. Wilson vetoed a health measure that would have let women in health care plans see an obstetrician or gynecologist without getting a referral from another physician. He promised to kill other health care proposals.

■ Businesses owned by minority women: 1.1 million (up 153% since 1987).

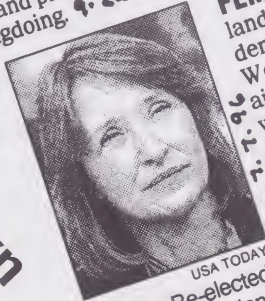
**BIAS LAWSUIT: Home Depot, the nation's largest home-improvement chain with 536 U.S. stores, has agreed to pay \$87.5 million to settle a class-action sex discrimination lawsuit.** The settlement, which includes \$22.5 million in lawyers' fees, is subject to court approval and covers up to 25,000 women in 10 western states. The lawsuit, filed in 1994, alleged discrimination in hiring, pay and promotion of women. Home Depot did not admit wrongdoing. **9.22.97**



## New Jersey

**7.7.97**  
**Trenton** — The state's colleges and universities are slower to hire women than men. They also pay and promote them less. The Star-Ledger of Newark reported. Women make up an average of 34.2% of tenured faculty.

**FEMINIST ELECTION: Patricia Ireland, re-elected Saturday as president of the National Organization for Women, announced a campaign aimed at electing 2,000 feminist women to office by 2000.** More than 500 attendees at NOW's annual conference in Memphis re-elected Ireland to a second four-year term on a voice vote. The Victory 2000 campaign will push for the election of feminists at all levels of the political system, from the school board on up.



USA TODAY  
 Ireland: Re-elected as NOW president

## womyn

### ■ MANAMA, BAHRAIN 11.3.97 Reports: Dad stabs daughter over job

An 18-year-old Bahraini woman was stabbed repeatedly by her father, who objected to her holding a job, newspapers reported yesterday.

Samia Yousef's father stabbed her at least 10 times Thursday as she was getting on a bus to go to work, according to the English-language *Gulf Daily News*. She remains hospitalized in stable condition, it said.

The father, who was not identified, was arrested later in East Riffa, 12 miles south of the capital, Manama, the *Bahrain Tribune* reported. Many families in conservative Bahrain keep their women at home. ?



... BUT I HAVE THINGS TO DO OUTSIDE THE HOUSE!

## Number of women serving time

The Justice Department says the number of women in prison or awaiting mandatory sentences jumped more than 9% nationwide last year. Comparing some states:

Female prisoners in 1996	% increase over 1995
California	12.8
Georgia	10.0
Illinois	2.4
New York	3.1
North Dakota	55.2
Ohio	0.4

Source: U.S. Justice Department

# Males still dominate in cartoons

By Bill Hendrick  
 Cox News Service

**CHICAGO** — We may have come a long way, baby, from the days of Betty Boop, but females are still portrayed as dummies in television cartoons, and this isn't good for kids, researchers say.

Male cartoon characters still outnumber female cartoon personalities by 4 to 1, the same as in the '70s, when sexism dominated the airwaves even more than today, Drs. Mary Hudak and Cynthia Spicher of Allegheny College told participants Sunday at the 105th annual meeting of the American Psychological Association.

What's more, though Homer Simpson epitomizes stupidity and his wife, Marge, his salvation, they are aberrations, the researchers said. They found that male cartoon characters are still portrayed for the most part as powerful, aggressive and dominating, while few female "toons" have much character at all.

This means young minds are getting the same kinds of sexist symbols that prevailed when female cops had to be gorgeous, as in *Charlie's Angels*, while men were ugly



The Simpsons doesn't portray women in a sexist way.

yet tough, such as Kojak.

The researchers videotaped and categorized 118 cartoon characters from such animated features as *Bugs Bunny*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Spiderman*, *Tick and Life With Louie*. The characters were rated on sex, prominence, gender stereotyping, aggressive behaviors and occupational roles.

"Male characters were powerful, strong, smart, aggressive and so on," they said. "Occasionally there's a token female cartoon character, but she's like lime Jell-O — she's bland," Hudak said.

Even though women's occupational roles have changed drastically during the past three decades, only a minute number of female cartoon characters were shown in such nontraditional roles as doctors or police.

Cartoons today "are the kiddie version of what's portrayed on adult dramas at night," the authors said.

They said change is needed because cartoons are depicting major differences in the status, behavior and capabilities of female and male characters. The younger generation needs to know this isn't true.

# What law says, how it is enforced

Answers to some commonly asked questions about Title IX

## Q: What is Title IX?

A: It is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination at any educational institution receiving federal aid. It is commonly thought of as a law that applies to colleges; it also applies to elementary and middle schools, high schools and grad schools.

## Q: What does the law say exactly?

A: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

## Q: Where does it mention sports?

A: It doesn't. But its language includes sports, and over time the law has come to be identified with the rise of women's sports, though it has also been a catalyst in the advancement of women in academics.

## Q: OK, where does it mention women?

A: It doesn't. The law protects the underrepresented sex. Theoretically, that could mean men or boys at certain schools. But in practice it means women or girls in almost all cases.

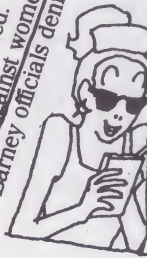
## wimin

"Dear Lord ... as an offering, I present these milk and cookies. If you wish me to eat them instead, please give me no sign whatsoever... thy will be done."  
 — Homer Simpson

**Maine 9.12.97**  
**South Portland** — Maine Mail is placing brochures and posters on domestic violence inside its women's restrooms to tell victims how to get help. Experts say that women feel safest in public places and public bathrooms, mail officials said. Nearly 21,000 women visit the mall each day.

## women

**SMITH BARNEY LAWSUIT: Smith Barney has reached a tentative deal to settle a harassment and discrimination lawsuit filed by 26 current and former female employees who said that brokers and managers weren't allowed to engage in sexual behavior for years. Terms slated against women in hiring, promotion and pay. Smith Barney officials denied the allegations. 10.10.97**









**Maine**  
**9.18.97**  
 Portland — A federal judge delayed sentencing for Philip Berrigan, 73, the peace activist who was convicted of vandalizing a Navy destroyer at Bath Iron Works.

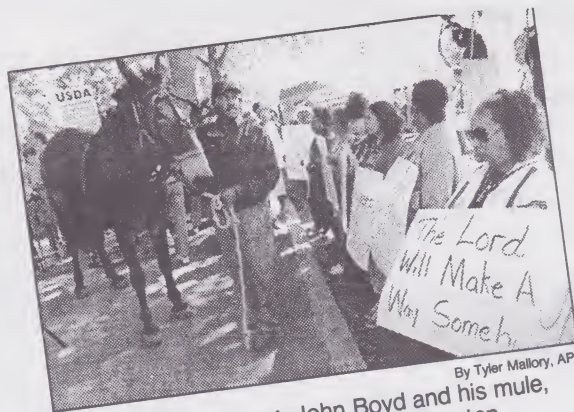


## German nuclear plant targeted



**Intervention:** Police stop several hundred anti-nuclear protesters Sunday from cutting rail tracks near a power plant in Geesthacht, Germany. The protesters were trying to thwart the upcoming transport of spent nuclear fuel. **9.22.97**

By Michael Probst, AP



By Tyler Mallory, AP

**Black farmers protest:** John Boyd and his mule, Struggle, at an anti-bias rally in Washington. **9.23.97**

**FARM PROGRAM BIAS:** Former Agriculture secretary Mike Espy told about 150 black farmers and U.S. Department of Agriculture minority employees that the Clinton administration is "beginning to do the right thing" about complaints of discrimination in farm programs. But officials need to "speed it up," Espy told the crowd in LaFayette Park across from the White House. Espy, the first African-American Agriculture secretary, resigned in 1994. He has pleaded innocent to federal corruption charges. Discrimination by USDA has been documented in several government reports over the last 15 years. The department has a backlog of 780 discrimination cases and about 100 new cases. Among the complaints: race-based denials of loans or lengthy application processes that forced many black farmers into foreclosure.

**Vermont**  
**10.6.97**  
 Rutland — The principal of Rutland High School says he and the faculty will try to address complaints that some gay and lesbian students are being harassed. A petition signed by 200 students at the 950-student school was presented to administrators last week.

## BEFORE YOU DO IT:

### 3 ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

**CONCIOUSNESS** - our understanding of how society works and our place in it including our sense of history.

**VISION** - the big picture we have of the world we want for ourselves, our families, and our communities.

**STRATEGY** - the plan we have for transforming the world we live in to the world that we envision.

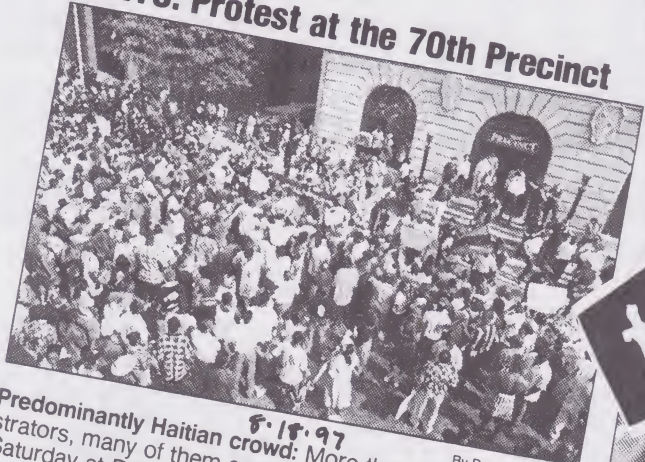
**DO**

**Some**



**In Plymouth, Mass.:** 25 Native Americans were arrested as their group of 200 demonstrated to call attention to the condition of indigenous peoples in the Americas. **11.28.97**

## In NYC: Protest at the 70th Precinct



**Predominantly Haitian crowd:** More than 4,000 demonstrators, many of them carrying toilet plungers, gathered Saturday at Brooklyn's 70th Precinct police building to protest alleged police brutality and sodomy against Haitian immigrant Abner Louima. Louima is hospitalized with injuries he said were inflicted by officers with a plunger a week ago. Two officers were indicted Friday. **8.18.97**

By Doug Kanter, AP

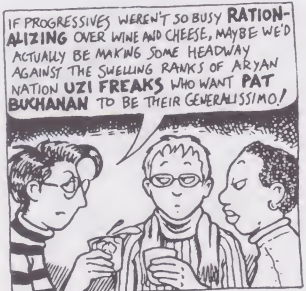
**thing.**



**Mushroom workers and their supporters.**

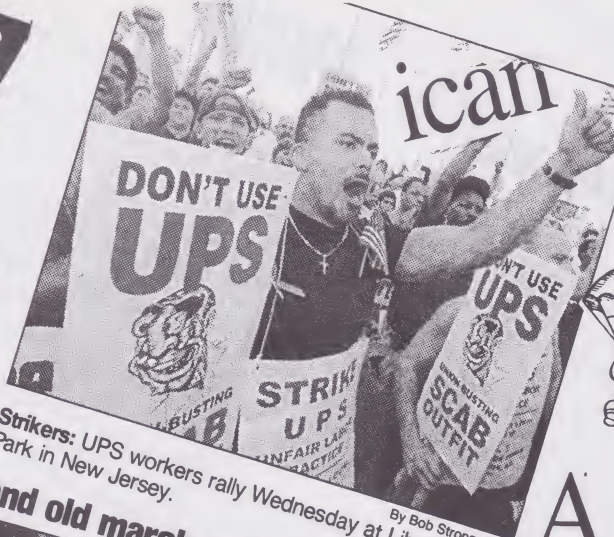
WWW PHOTO: DIANNE MATHIOWETZ

**POT RALLY:** A rally advocating legalization of marijuana drew 60,000 people to Boston Common on Saturday, police said. About 200 were arrested on drug charges. **9.28.97**





Do some more

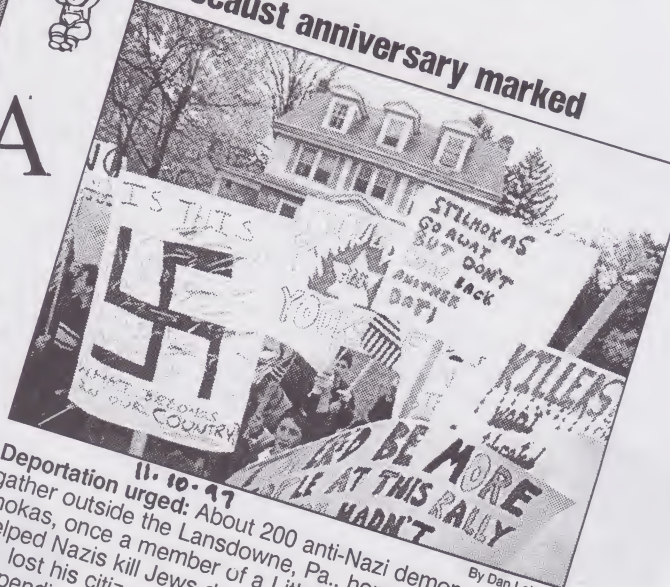


**Strikers:** UPS workers rally Wednesday at Liberty State Park in New Jersey.  
By Bob Strong, AP

**North Carolina**  
7.2.97  
Raleigh — Nearly 100 Hispanics gathered outside cable-giant Time Warner Inc. Saturday to protest plans to cut broadcast time for the Spanish-language TV channel Univision to 12 hours a day. The other 12 hours, all prime time, would be replaced by The Golf Channel.

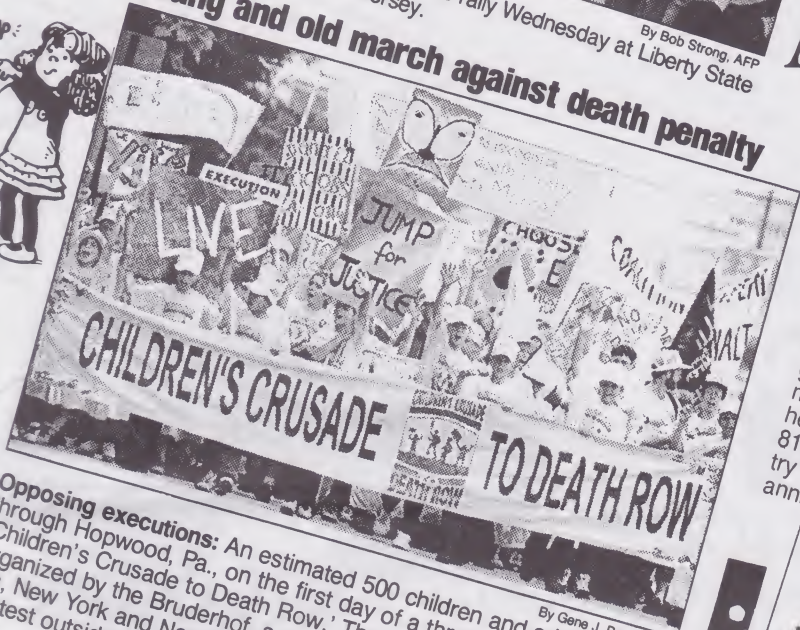


## Holocaust anniversary marked



**Deportation urged:** About 200 anti-Nazi demonstrators gathered outside the Lansdowne, Pa., home of Jonas Stelmokas, once a member of a Lithuanian police force that helped Nazis kill Jews during World War II. Stelmokas, 81, lost his citizenship in 1995 but remains in the country pending appeal. The demonstration marked the 67th anniversary of the beginning of the Holocaust.  
By Dan Loh, AP

## Young and old march against death penalty



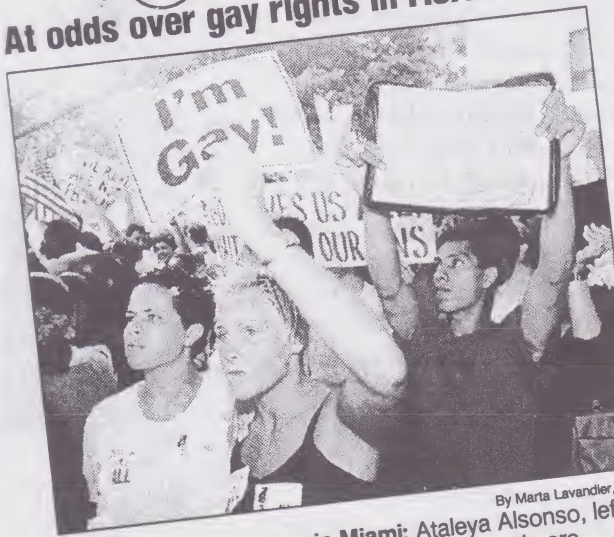
**Opposing executions:** An estimated 500 children and adults march through Hopwood, Pa., on the first day of a three-day, 30-mile 'Children's Crusade to Death Row.' The anti-execution march was organized by the Bruderhof, a pacifist Christian sect in Pennsylvania, New York and New England. The protest will culminate with a protest outside the state prison near Waynesburg. 8/19/97  
By Gene J. Puskar, AP

## Concrete in their opposition



**Pigeon shoot protest:** Animal activists in Hegins, Pa., block Route 25, the main road leading to the Hegins Labor Day Pigeon Shoot. The protesters were trying to stop participants from shooting 5,000 pigeons. Birds are released each year at the event, started in 1934. Police eventually arrested the seven activists, who linked arms through plastic tubes encased in concrete-filled barrels. The pigeon shoot raises money for local charities.  
By Kalim A. Bhatt, AP

## At odds over gay rights in Florida



**Support and opposition in Miami:** Ataleya Alonso, left, her partner Debbie Servis and William Mayoda are among more than 1,000 demonstrators showing support or opposition to a proposed gay-rights ordinance. Dade County Commissioners later rejected the plan.  
By Marta Lavandier, AP

things

"Happiness depends less on things than on our attitude toward the things we have."



"When authorities warn you of the sinfulness of sex, there is an important lesson to be learned . . . Do not have sex with the authorities."

— Matt Groening



# On the Road with AVAIL

This past June and July I had the pleasure of touring with some of the hardest working and most disciplined people in the DIY punk/rock music scene.

Who am I writing about? The folks in the band Avail, plus the crew; Neil of Tribal War Records and Distribution, Christine Boats of Slug & Lettuce fanzine, Caroline "merchandise/roadie extraordinaire", Richard the "Roadie from Hell", and (for a portion of the tour) an ARA'er from St. Louis.

If you have never seen Avail, they are one of the very few bands that keep their momentum and energy throughout their entire set of anywhere from 15-20 songs of varying tempos and emotions.

After a few shows, I got the nerve to go up on stage and start giving a short rap about ARA, who we are and what we do. Avail figured it would be best

if first they played a song, which grabbed peoples' attention and then I would talk about ARA. This proved to be very effective and I didn't have to talk to people who were milling around waiting for Avail to start, 'cuz they already had!

Overall the tour was a success in that a lot of you who are reading this either never heard of Anti-Racist Action before, hadn't met anyone involved with ARA or had questions about ARA that we were able to answer. Since this tour, many chapters have sprung up in cities where we stopped.

Many people told me about racists and other bigots in their schools, neighborhoods, families or churches that they wish they could do something about. That's where ARA comes into the picture. If we wouldn't have been on tour with Avail, a lot of people might not have known where to start to eradicate racism in their

communities and begin to build a community where equality is the norm.

Just as the Mighty Mighty Bosstones and our allies too. Many thanks to all who made this tour as enjoyable and productive as it was.

If you want to hear Avail, their music is available through **Lookout! Records** P.O. Box 11374, Berkeley, CA 94712. Tribal War distributes and produces independent antifascist and counter culture books & music at low cost and can be reached at **Tribal War Records** P.O. Box 20712, Tompkins Sq. Stn., NY, NY 10009. **Slug & Lettuce** is a bi-monthly newspaper dedicated to networking the D.I.Y. punk/hardcore music scene and educating people about D.I.Y. culture. **S&L** P.O. Box 26632, Richmond, VA



WE'VE RAISED A VERY SENSITIVE CHILD.



## REAL HEROES

### MIGHTY, MIGHTY BOSSTONES HELP BUILD ARA

We're proud to announce the winners of the very first ARA News "Real Heroes" award — the Mighty, Mighty Bosstones. Of all the different types of people who help build the ARA Movement, nobody has done more than those in the music business. Probably over a thousand different acts have performed free for ARA all over North America. The biggest contribution of all has come from the Bosstones.

They are a really incredible bunch of people, both musically and politically. Their latest recording is called "Let's Face It". The title tune is one of the finest anti-racist songs ever recorded. Here's a sample of the lyrics:

It's so hard to face that in this day and age  
Somebody's race could trigger somebody's rage.

And somebody's preference can drive some total stranger  
To make somebody, somehow feel the wrath of their anger.

Why were we put here? What for? We're unsure.  
We sure weren't put here to hate.

Be racist, be sexist, be bigots, be sure  
We won't stand for your hate.

Let's try to erase it, it's time that we face it  
If we don't, then who will? Shame on us.

Let's try to erase it, it's time that we face it.  
Let's face it the time is upon us.

The Bosstones have become real popular recently, selling more records and touring constantly. They've been kind enough to take us along for the ride. ARA has been allowed to set up tables at their shows where we hand out literature, put "Stop Racism" stickers on the audience, sign up people for the Newsletter and generally make friends. Sometimes the band will even talk about ARA from the stage during the show. They have promoted us on radio, in magazine interviews and on MTV. The incredible growth of ARA chapters is due, in no small part, to the access to the public that they have provided us.

In a world full of jump-on-the-bandwagon activists, the Bosstones support has been completely heartfelt and sincere. These guys have no "angle," they're just trying to do the right thing. It's time we showed our appreciation. We urge all of our ARA News readers to buy a Bosstones recording soon. Then buy another one and give it to a friend. Check out the Bosstones tour dates and other information on their website.

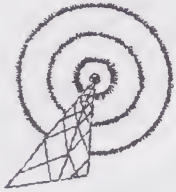
And remember, while so-called leaders—whether religious, political or corporate—take credit for things, millions of regular people are the ones who actually change the world; real heroes, like the Mighty, Mighty Bosstones.



I WANT TO KNOW WHO MY TRUE FRIENDS ARE!!!







## MUSIC



**ARA ROAD SHOW**  
**ARA-COLUMBUS HAS BEEN**  
**BUSY ARRANGING FOR TABLES**  
**AT UPCOMING CONCERTS.**  
**LOOK FOR US ON THESE TOURS**  
**IN THE NEAR FUTURE: MIGHTY**  
**MIGHTY BOSSTONES, LESS**  
**THAN JAKE, CHUMBAWAMBA,**  
**YOLK, GOLDFINGER,**  
**PIETASTERS & MORE.**  
**ALSO, WE JUST LEARNED**  
**ABOUT THE SKA AGAINST**  
**RACISM TOUR, BEGINNING**  
**ABOUT APRIL 1. THIS ONE**  
**SOUNDS REAL EXCITING WITH**  
**SKA BANDS FROM AS FAR**  
**AWAY AS JAPAN HELPING TO**  
**BUILD THE ANTI-RACIST**  
**MOVEMENT. WE HOPE WE SEE**  
**YOU THERE.**

Patti Smith - poet and punk rock star of the Seventies- was a cultural icon who symbolized rebellion and non-conformity. She's back as strong as ever with a new album "Peace and Noise". Here's an excerpt from an interview she did with "The Progressive" Dec '97.

**Q:** Almost twenty years ago, you wrote a song called "Citizen-ship." But it seems to me your ideas have evolved. Can you describe your sense of the role of the artist as citizen?

**Smith:** My feelings about that are mixed. When I was younger, the last thing I wanted to be was a citizen. I wanted to be an artist and a bum—what Genet would call one of "the sacred bums of art." That's pretty much all I wanted to be. I was concerned about certain things—about censorship, about nuclear power, about the Tibetan situation, and the famine in Ethiopia. I did have concerns, but still, as an artist and a human being and an American, I was basically self-centered. I didn't really have an understanding of what it was like to be a citizen.

In 1979, when I moved to Detroit to live with Fred, my life changed drastically. I came to understand George Washington's quote after he left the Presidency, when he said, "I have resumed my life as a citizen." I took comfort from that, because I actually became "as a citizen."

We had children. We had a house. We faced financial struggles. We lived very simply. We did everything ourselves, whether it was clearing our little piece of land or—because we lived on a canal that often flooded—sandbagging in the middle of the night. I had to wash diapers and clean toilet bowls and nurse sick children and find time to do art.

I had to get up at five in the morning and write before the baby woke up. My art didn't suffer. My work actually flourished in that period because I learned new disciplines. I had to become much more focused in those time periods when I could work.

I gained a lot of respect for people. It's not my bent. I'm just not a middle-class person. I don't have middle-class sensibilities, desires. But I would never again be so snooty about the middle class and middle-class struggles.

### Texas 6.6.97

**Austin** — The \$86.2 billion state budget bill passed last week may ban agencies from investing in firms linked to "gangsta" rap music. Gov. Bush has until June 22 to act on it.

## Rage Against the Machine...



Sheriff William Wiester of Grant County, Washington was unable to convince a local court that the September 10 Rage Against the Machine concert at George Amphitheater should be banned due to the group's "violent and anti-law enforcement philosophies". Sheriff Wiester admitted that he had gathered "information" from detectives in every other city where Rage has played on its current tour. In other words there is, de facto, a national police network monitoring our music and musicians.

It's no surprise that the government would target the Rage Against the Machine/Wu-Tang

Clan tour. In a September *Rolling Stone* article, Rage member, Zack De La Roche, said, "The Tour is going to incorporate everything which the rich, wealthy classes in America fear and despise. Each of the 20,000 people in the audience will be reminded of their independent political power... One of the products. I say fuck that, you can keep it. I want my freedom. Those are the values that Chuck D, KRS-One and Wu-Tang hold true."

Rage Against the Machine, who now have sold over 7 million records, have done a lot to help people's movements, including

benefit concerts for the Zapatista rebels in Mexico and imprisoned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal. The government is not supposed to spy on and silence people who disagree with the "official view". Opponents of police abuse, whether doing a good thing by standing up for the victims. We will not be censored or silenced.... and in a related story.... The band U2 issued a statement in July saying it was abandoning the support of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The announcement came just before U2 played in Philadelphia, the city whose police force framed Abu-Jamal many years ago.



It's 13 O'Clock



## Free speech, Part II 7.11.97

Rocker Vinnie Dombroski of Sponge won't be facing prosecution in Tulsa, Okla., for spouting profanities in concert, the district attorney's office has decided. Dombroski was arrested this week as he left the stage, accused of violating Oklahoma's obscenity law by using a certain four-letter word 11 times. The 1910 law makes it a misdemeanor to "utter or speak any obscene or lascivious language" within earshot of females or the under-12 set. Said

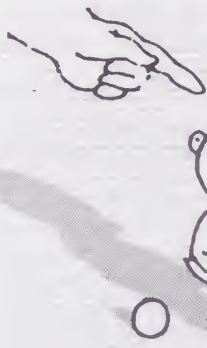
Dombroski: "I don't yell fire in a crowded theater, I don't yell profanities at fellow citizens on the street. When I perform, I feel I am in a forum that respects my freedom to say what I want. If a Sponge show is not your cup of tea, there are plenty of roads to Disneyland."

**Most skinheads are not racist!**  
**(remember this)**

YEAH.







# leave those kids alone!

**Iowa**  
11.13.97 — Students can no longer carry purses, backpacks or other bags to Fort Dodge High after bomb threats shortened classes and forced officials to cut Christmas vacation to make up for lost time.

**Tennessee**  
1.14.98 — The Memphis Board of Education voted 6-3 to keep paddling students as a form of discipline. Board President Lora Jobe had urged her colleagues to ban corporal punishment because studies show spanking children may do more harm than good.

■ **MORE THAN 650,000** children will spend all or part of 1997 in government-run foster care, most of them placed in state custody because of abuse or neglect, according to a new study from the Institute for Children and the National Center for Policy Analysis.  
10.3.97 — Many of these kids will remain in foster care for years, suffering another kind of neglect: the neglect of a bureaucratic system that does not put the interests of children first.

**Vermont**  
10.1.97 — Barre school board members voted to install cameras on buses, despite protests from parents who say cameras invade privacy. Backers say they will protect students and improve behavior.

"Cops hate skaters. I guess because they think we mess up the curbs and everything. You really can't crack a curb with a board. I mean, it's wood on cement."  
— Frank Campbell, 15

**Arkansas**  
11.20.97 — The state chapter of the ACLU filed suit to stop what it calls unconstitutional random drug testing at the Cave City School District. Students in grades seven through 12 and their parents must sign a form consenting to random drug screenings before participating in extracurricular activities.



**New Hampshire**  
9.11.97 — School Supt. Carl Hesse reluctantly has turned to eliminating basketball, baseball, track and softball as a way to meet a reduced \$8.6 million school budget. The city council OK'd a budget for \$670,000 less than the board requested.



**Pennsylvania**  
10.7.97 — A Senate education panel sent to the floor a bill that would authorize the 501 school districts to impose uniform dress codes. A similar bill passed the House, but died in the Senate last year.

WHAT DO YOU GROWN-UPS DO, GET TOGETHER AHEAD OF TIME AND FIGURE OUT WHAT SAME OLD THINGS YOU'RE GONNA SAY TO US KIDS?



"You're never too old to do goofy stuff."  
— Ward Cleaver

**Florida**  
10.14.97 — Tallahassee — The state's teenage population swelled to more than 2.3 million in '96, up from 1.3 million in '95, but serious juvenile crime is down 36% in murder cases, 23% in auto theft and 18% in armed robbery since '94, the Juvenile Justice Agency said.

"It's hard to be brave when you are a Very Small Animal."  
— Piglet

**Missouri**  
9.16.97 — St. Louis — Lead poisoning among St. Louis children is still on the rise 20 years after lead paint was outlawed. Of nearly 3,600 children screened in '96, 28% had dangerous levels of lead in their blood, records show.



**Pennsylvania**  
1.7.98 — Pittsburgh — Hungry poor children are seven times as likely as non-hungry peers to fight, enroll in special education or to need counseling, a study of 328 parents and children, 21% were classified as "psychosocially dysfunctional" compared to 3% of non-hungry children, the study says.

# LEAVE THOSE KIDS ALONE

Life is getting tougher for kids in the United States. On the average, everyday, 9 children are murdered, 3 children die from child abuse and 27 die from poverty-related causes. Every day 5,703 teenagers are victims of violent crimes and 2,255 more teenagers drop out of school. Everyday 2,868 babies are born into poverty.

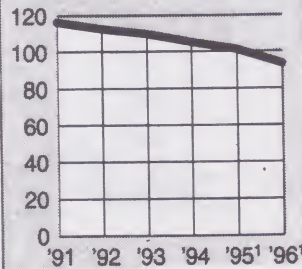
It will take a major effort to turn this depressing situation around. A few less corporate tax breaks and "business incentives" would free up some cash to put into programs that really helped young people. But it appears that none of the politicians Democrat, Republican, liberal—or conservative—are much interested. They blame the victims and call for more restrictions on kids freedom.

The youth are the future. We want a better future than the one they have planned for us. Fight for the rights of young people. (statistics from the Children's Defense Fund)

**Maryland**  
9.26.97 — Glen Burnie — A group of parents chastised Corkran Middle School officials' decision to remove the outer doors from student bathrooms to discourage smoking. Bathroom patrols would work as well, parents say.

## Teen births decline

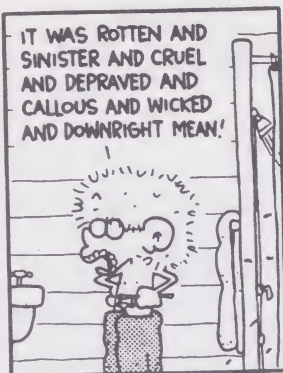
Since 1991 teen birth rates have fallen, mostly among blacks (births per 1,000 black women aged 15-19).



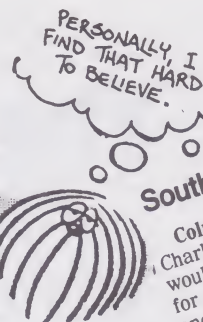
► **Fight for the Right** (MTV, Sunday, 10 p.m. ET/PT): Over three Sundays, MTV News takes a hard look at how policies designed to protect young people may actually be restricting their civil rights.



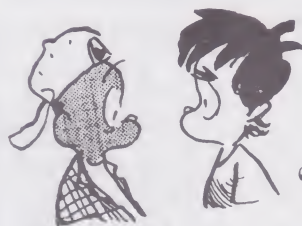
**Fort Myers** — Taiwan-born Ming Phua, 45, was jailed for child abuse after his daughter, 14, was found shackled to a 15-foot chain in their front yard Tuesday. The girl said her father wanted to keep her away from children of other races, particularly their Haitian neighbors.



**Rhode Island**  
9.9.97  
Providence — One qualification for a state job to probe discrimination against the handicapped bars the post, the ACLU said. The job lists a state driver's license as mandatory for applicants.

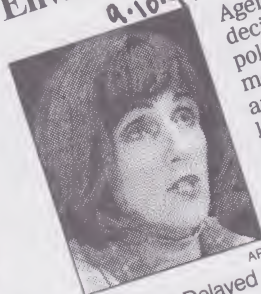


**South Carolina**  
7.21.97  
Columbia — State Atty. Gen. Charlie Condon said a bill that would impose harsher penalties for crimes targeting homosexuals and women has caused him to withdraw his support for a state-funded team to fight hate crimes. State laws shouldn't specify sexual orientation or gender, he said.



**Alabama**  
9.11.97  
Athens — A federal lawsuit filed on behalf of Elkmont High School student Curt Bentley, who is white, accuses the principal and vice principal of trying to discourage interracial friendships, including informing his parents that he danced with a black girl during homecoming. School officials had no comment. The suit seeks unspecified damages.

## 'Environmental racism' decision due



**Browner: Delayed announcement**

9.10.97 The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to announce its decision today on whether to deny a pollution permit because of "environmental racism." Shintech Inc., a Japanese firm, wants to build a \$700-million chemical plant on the Mississippi River in Convent, La. Foes say the plant would disproportionately harm low-income African-Americans, who account for 81% of the population near the plant. A decision from EPA Administrator Carol Browner had been expected Tuesday. It's the first time the EPA has been petitioned to reject a permit on grounds of environmental racism, officials say. — Dennis Cauchon

"ISN'T  
PREJUDICE  
WIERD?"  
DEPT.



"A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men."  
— Willy Wonka

## Rude, she said

### What harm in speaking Spanish at work?

8.20.97 An Amarillo, Texas, insurance agency, seeking to increase business with Hispanics in the community, did the sensible thing and hired a couple of women who speak English and Spanish.

Less than a year later, however, they were fired. It's not that they were found incompetent. The trouble, the owners said, was that employees Rosa Gonzales and Ester Hernandez conversed with each other in Spanish.

Gonzales and Hernandez were being "very rude for speaking in a language we don't understand," said one co-owner. The agency maintains "an English-

speaking office except when we have customers who can't speak our language," another co-owner asserted in a snappish memo to employees. "If you can't live with the rules here — Draw your pay and make the rules at your next job."

Honestly, now. Isn't this the old molehill and mountain situation?

Instead of blowing up, firing people and facing the threat of a boycott, why not take greater advantage of the language asset? Who knows? Over occasional coffee and Danish, one might pick up a surprising amount of Spanish.

STUPID!  
STUPID!  
STUPID!



## SALEM, ORE. 8.23.97

### Worker punched out for racist comments gets workers' comp

A white man who was punched out by a black co-worker for making racist remarks is entitled to workers' compensation for his injuries, the state Supreme Court ruled.

The court found unanimously Thursday that the injury was work-related even if events leading up to the assault were not about work.

Along with physical risks in a workplace, Justice Theodore Kulon-goski wrote, is "the risk that a co-employee may lose control of his or her emotions and assault the employee."

The incident occurred more than three years ago at the Redman Industries plant in Salem.

From wire reports

>Subject: what the fuck is this?  
>Event: Second Annual White Christmas  
>Where: White City Park, Ft. Pierce, Florida  
>When: Saturday, December 6, 1997

**DEPICTING POVERTY:** The media uses pictures of blacks more often than whites to illustrate stories about poverty even though most of the nation's poor are white, a Yale University study found. National news magazines, including Time, Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report, pictured blacks 62% of the time in stories on poverty, though statistics show 29% of Americans below the poverty line are black, according to the study by Martin Gilens, an assistant professor of political science. Evening television news depicted blacks representing the poor 65% of the time, said Gilens, who examined five years' worth of articles and newscasts. The pictures encourage stereotypes about race and fuel discontent among whites about the welfare system, he said. 8.19.97

CLICK

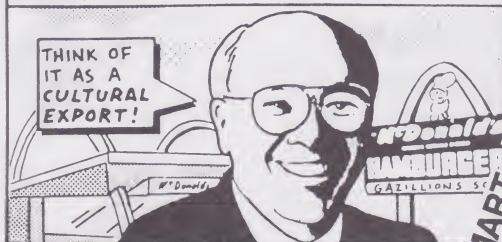






# The Rich...

THIS WEEK--A LOOK AT SOME OF AMERICA'S BIGGEST WELFARE BUMS--SUCH AS ED RENS, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF McDONALDS, WHICH RECEIVED \$466,000 FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN 1992 TO PROMOTE CHICKEN McNUGGETS OVERSEAS...



## State gives local companies \$22 million in tax credits

By Mike Pramlik  
Dispatch Business Reporter

Two Columbus companies yesterday received credits from the Ohio Job Creation Tax Credit Authority totaling \$22.4 million.  
Executive Jet Inc. will receive a 65 percent tax credit for 10 years to expand operations. The \$16.7 million project will take place at U.S. Air Force Plant No. 85 near Port Columbus.

bus. Executive Jet plans to lease 150,000 square feet of hangar space and 80,000 square feet of office space in the former McDonnell Douglas plant.

The project is expected to create 430 jobs and retain 600 within the first year. Executive Jet provides jet charter services for businesses.  
Daifuku America Corp. will receive a 65 percent tax credit for 7 years to expand operations. The company

plans to add 67,000 square feet of its existing plant at 6700 Tussing Rd. Daifuku also plans to use the credits to expand its office space by 7,000 square feet and purchase equipment.  
The plan is expected to create 45 jobs and retain 59 within the first three years. Daifuku makes automated material handling equipment for the automotive industry.

The projects were part of \$208 million in tax credits the state approved yesterday for 15 Ohio companies.

The governor's office said the projects are expected to create 1,727 jobs, retain 2,477 jobs and generate an estimated \$5.3 million in net state income taxes over 10 years.

proved yesterday for 15 Ohio companies. The governor's office said the projects are expected to create 1,727 jobs, retain 2,477 jobs and generate an estimated \$5.3 million in net state income taxes over 10 years.

Kansas  
Topeka — The state gave the banking industry a multi-million-dollar tax break to keep to state-chartered banks competitive.

Newton Bank Commissioner W. Newton told legislators a group of economists say the tax break will cost the state \$16.5 million over two years.

## Chrysler got deal from state despite downsizing

TOLEDO (AP) — The \$232 million incentive package offered to Chrysler to build its new Jeep plant here is one of the largest in the nation in the past 10 years, *The Blade* reported yesterday.  
Large incentive packages have become increasingly common as states compete for corporate headquarters and manufacturing plants.  
But what makes the Chrysler deal different is that the city and state are paying to keep an existing employer, and Jeep intends to reduce the number of workers at the new plant from 5,600 to 4,900. *The Blade* reported.

**'GREEN' VOTE:** In its first major environmental vote of 1997, the Senate will decide this week whether to continue to pay for new roads in national forests so timber companies can log trees. Taxpayer groups call the program corporate welfare, and environmentalists say runoff from roads destroys elk habitat and clogs lakes and streams. Timber industry supporters say roads benefit the public by providing access to the forests for firefighters, hunters and recreational users after the logging is done. At stake are two programs worth nearly \$100 million total. The road-building program survived a close vote in the House earlier this year.

### Alabama

The House has approved Gov. James' proposal to give tax breaks to Boeing, Audi and LG Semicon so they'll build plants in the state. The bill, which gives industries a 20-year break from the state franchise tax, goes to the Senate.

### Maine

Augusta — Calling it corporate welfare, a coalition submitted a petition to the state that would repeal a 20-year, \$60 million tax break for Bath Iron Works. Under the plan, the boat-builder can keep employees' state withholding taxes for 20 years or until 30 ships are built.



## Inheritance tax ought to be higher, not lower

With his June 11 letter to the editor, lawyer Thomas N. Taneff joins the swelling ranks of whiners who are turning up the volume and quantity of complaints about federal estate taxes.

They think that now is the time to reduce or eliminate inheritance taxes, while the Republicans are in control of Congress. They are probably right about the timing, worse luck, but are dead wrong about their philosophy that the rich should pass on their wealth to their heirs.

Reduce or eliminate estate taxes? The opposite should be true: Confiscate all wealth upon death. Why?

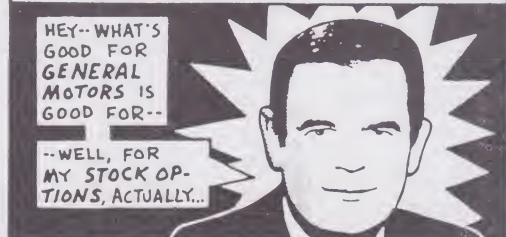
Well, why should children of the rich — who have had the best education, housing, medical care, culture exposure and job opportunities — be handed even more advantages by inheriting what they never earned?

Give them nothing more. Tax it all away and put it toward, say, higher education for the poor. Or maybe use it to run political campaigns equitably. But don't let it go toward perpetuating the rich ruling class.

Louisiana  
New Orleans — The state's inheritance tax rate will be off a Raon tax year and under a bill Gov. Will Ross signed into law. The state will lose \$30 million a year in revenue.

IT'S WEALTHY AT THE TOP: Pay raises for the nation's top corporate executives from 1980 to 1995 outpaced the growth of corporate revenue and profit, the Internal Revenue Service said Tuesday. Executive pay in 1995 was \$307.6 billion, up 182% from 1980, the IRS said. Meanwhile, corporate revenue rose 128%, to \$14.6 trillion. Taxable corporate income rose 127%, to \$560 billion. The rate of executive pay increases could be even higher because compensation totals in the IRS data do not include stock options and other deferred compensation.

OR JOHN F. SMITH, JR., PRESIDENT AND CEO OF GENERAL MOTORS, A COMPANY WHICH RECEIVED MORE THAN \$110.6 MILLION IN FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY SUBSIDIES AS PART OF A PROGRAM TO CREATE JOBS FROM 1990-1994--DURING WHICH TIME THEY SLASHED 104,000 JOBS...



## HOUSE THAT BILL BUILT: County officials

say Bill Gates' new home on Lake Washington, near Seattle, is worth more than \$53 million, so they want him to pay more than \$600,000 in property taxes. America's richest man, worth an estimated \$36 billion, wants a second opinion. Software giant Microsoft's co-founder two weeks ago moved in to the new 40,000-square-foot mansion that took seven years to build. It features, among other things, a guest house, theater, arcade, spas, library and a reception hall for 100 people.



9-22-97 **TOBACCO TAX BREAK:** A proposed \$50 billion tax deal for tobacco companies, which mysteriously appeared in the balanced budget bill, came at the behest of tobacco lobbyist and former Republican national chairman Haley Barbour, *Time* says. Barbour declined to comment.

Oregon 11-25-97 **Suicidal thoughts** are most common among the state's poor and uneducated, the sick, unemployed and those who are divorced or separated, *The Oregonian* reported. The state's suicide rate of 17 per 100,000 population ranks 10th in the nation.

## The job shortage

Under welfare reform, recipients must move off the rolls and into jobs within two years. As welfare-to-work deadlines approach this year and next, many big cities say they won't have enough low-skill jobs to meet the demand. Estimated shortfalls for some of those cities:

City	Job shortfall
Boston	9,900
Detroit	75,303
Knoxville, Tenn.	2,548
Little Rock	1,275
New Orleans	6,763
Philadelphia	53,400
St. Paul, Minn.	9,682
Seattle	28,252
St. Louis	6,734

Source: U.S. Conference of Mayors

California 10-31-97 **One in 25** San Francisco transactions on department store and supermarket checkout scanners results in overcharges, costing California consumers at least \$250 million last year, said a report by the California Public Interest Group.

"Everybody knows the symptoms but nobody has the guts to name the disease. The disease is the fact that capitalism is running out of fuel.... This capitalism thing can't work. You can't continually ask people to work for less than the market value of their labor so somebody at the top of the pyramid can get fifty million dollar bonuses out of the system. It just won't work anymore." — **Todd Rundgren** on *Politically Incorrect* (which immediately cut to a commercial)

DON'T I PAY YOU A LIVING WAGE?



## Massachusetts

Boston 11-11-97 **Nearly half of all poor families** in the state have at least one adult working, a study by the Massachusetts Community Action Program found. Half the families in poverty have two parents; two-thirds are white, and three-quarters have high school diplomas.

# VS. The Rest of Us



Denver — Advocates for the elderly are criticizing a proposal before legislators that would raise from 60 to 65 the age for Coloradans to begin receiving state pensions, currently fixed at \$526 a month.

## Tale of two men shows wide disparity of justice

In recent months, *Dispatch* readers have had the opportunity to follow the travails of two men.

One is a worker who was hurt on the job. Impoverished by his inability to work and frustrated by the bureaucracy that was supposed to help him in his time of need, he went, it seems, a little mad and committed a criminal act in a desperate attempt to draw attention to his problems. His attempt to obtain a few thousand dollars to feed and house his family has caused him to be branded a dangerous criminal, and be sentenced to serve years in prison for his actions.

The second man was a chief of staff for a powerful governor. He is a man who is unlikely to have known a hungry day in his adult life. For no reason other than greed and the arrogance that power brings, he violated the ethics of his office to coerce (if coercion was needed) a state contractor to provide him with an addition to his home worth in excess of \$100,000. For this he will spend six months in the most minimal incarceration available. His crime is termed "an unfortunate mistake" by the governor who oversees the bureaucracy that so mistreated the worker.

Why is it that when people without power violate the law, they are criminals, but when those with money and power do the same or worse, they have only committed "an unfortunate mistake"?

Harry Farkas  
Columbus

**MINIMUM WAGE:** Wages go up for 6.8 million Americans today as the federal minimum wage rises 40 cents to \$5.15 an hour. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., says the hike "doesn't go far enough, which is why I intend in the months ahead to push for legislation to further raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 (in 2002)." The increase is the second phase of legislation that raised the min.

Virginia 11-20-97 **Roanoke** — The number of poor children from 5 to 17 years old in the state increased nearly 46,000 to 180,329 from '89 to '93, University of Virginia researchers found.

## New Jersey

Newark 7-3-97 **Industrial giant DuPont** will pay \$38.5 million to settle a lawsuit brought by 427 residents near a closed munitions plant in Passaic County. They said pollution led to five deaths, illnesses and contaminated water. DuPont denied responsibility for any injuries.

## Homeless woman died by drowning

A homeless 75-year-old woman whose body was found in the Scioto River Downtown on Friday drowned, Columbus police said they were told by the Franklin County coroner's office.

Ruby L. Wright had no trauma marks on her body to suggest she might have been a homicide victim, police said. "We'll probably never know the circumstances leading up to her death," homicide detective Gary Rountree said yesterday. "She could have slipped on the bank." Her fully clothed body had been in the water about three days, police said.

Police determined Wright lived at the Salvation Army at E. Fulton Street and S. Grant Avenue much of the time. She was last seen there Wednesday, Rountree said. Wright's body was found Friday morning in the river south of W. Main Street, entangled in a two-wheel, wire-frame cart for transporting groceries and other items.

Vermont 11-22-97 **The number of** Burlington homeless people and people who sought assistance to prevent homelessness has grown to 14,000 from 6,000 in '95, says a study by Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition.



**WORKPLACE INJURIES:** About 6,500 people died of workplace injuries and another 60,300 died of work-related disease in 1992, costing an estimated \$171 billion, say researchers at San Jose State University and Stanford University. The study, in today's *Archives of Internal Medicine*, uses data compiled by government agencies to estimate the costs of occupational injuries and illnesses in the USA. Deaths from occupational illnesses include 6% 10% of cancers, 5%-10% of heart and cerebrovascular disease and 10% of lung disease.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET!

THAT'S GREAT! I READ THAT HELPING THE POOR SURVIVE WAS BAD FOR THEIR SELF-ESTEEM!





# "NOT IN OUR TOWN"



## DRAWING THE LINE

This editorial appeared in a mainstream, small-town newspaper near Cincinnati about a week after a nearby Aryan Nations rally. It is a strongly worded example of how ARA's anti-racist point of view will eventually be adopted by much broader segments of society when they are forced to confront the rise of these hate-groups. Congratulations to the Germantown Press for being ahead of your time!

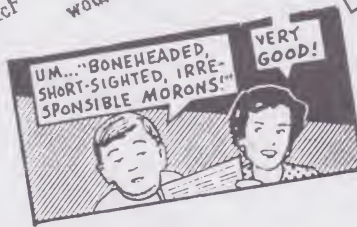
Germantown Press  
10-2-97



## Spartan country, not Aryan

To the pathetically unenlightened, it might seem that a village named Germantown would be pure Aryan. Not so! We have been the recipient of an anonymous letter decrying the Holocaust exhibit at a Dayton museum, and denying that the Holocaust ever took place! Since we are not a paparazzi-oriented publication, but a bona-fide newspaper, the does not publish anonymous letters, the letter-to-the-editor will not be published, nor will the contents of the many anti-Semitic and bigoted fliers that have been distributed throughout the village by members of the Aryan Nations, apparently home-based in New Vienna, Ohio. Indeed, to the shame of the world, the Holocaust did take place, and the guilt of the atrocities committed by the Nazi hierarchy is a wound to humanity which will never scar and heal.

In the last paragraph, you challenged us to "draw the line." We have drawn the line, and it is this: Ridicule if you must, our friends at the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Conservancy Road, and continue, if you must, to distribute your hateful trash throughout our town, the Constitution of the United States of America gives you that right; but know this - Germantown is SPARTAN country, and it wouldn't be wise to rile all 5,000 of us!



**This is the kind of leadership that local officials can and should give.**

## New Mexico

Albuquerque — Mayor Martin Chavez has issued a "Proclamation of Un-Welcome" for an Idaho-based church group that he says "poisons" the Internet with white supremacist propaganda. America's Promise Ministries is expected to hold a gathering in Mountainair starting Saturday.

GREAT!

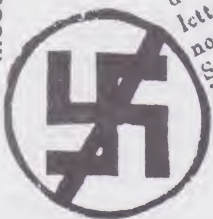


**BRENTWOOD GIVES KKK COLD SHOULDER**



The Ku Klux Klan received a mostly chilly reception in the Benwood, PA on July 17. The Klan had threatened to stage an armed demonstration in Pittsburgh, but they showed up in Benwood instead. The reason for this change of location? "Where could we go in Pittsburgh where there are no blacks?" asked KKK big-shot, Ed Foster. "We wanted to go to a white neighborhood." A total of 13 Klan members, in full costume, stood on the street corners distributing racist, anti-Semitic literature in an effort to recruit members. A few people, mostly teens, took the handouts and a few motorists beeped their horns in support. But a much more common response during the Klan's one-hour stay was the contempt expressed by a woman who drove by and responded to their chants of "white power" with "White trash is more like it." Another female motorist yelled, "Get out of here, we don't want you!" "Get a life!" another man screamed. A woman walking her young daughter swimming pool told them to take off their robes. "You're a bunch of freaks," she said as she walked past them. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* 7/18/97

Most skinheads are not racist! (remember this)



**SOUTH SALEM RESIDENTS RALLY AGAINST VOLKSFRONT:** Seventy South Salem residents and teachers from South Salem High School held a rally Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> to protest the distribution of racist fliers by the Portland-based neo-Nazi group Volksfront. The fliers were distributed near the home of a Jewish South Salem High teacher. Speaking the day before the rally, South Salem teacher Malvina Holloway told reporters that Volksfront crossed the line between recruitment and threatening behavior when they appeared to single out one person. Holloway told reporters that the leafletting "makes me more resolute" to oppose bigotry. The day of the rally, South Salem High teacher Andy Goldsin told reporters that "It's frightening that something like this could happen, but the people who came out today show[ed] that the community won't accept this" (*Salem Statesman Journal*, Oct. 19; Oct. 20).

The literature distribution signaled the stepped-up efforts of Volksfront to build its Salem chapter. The leaflets distributed by Volksfront included a swastika-like symbol, contained headlines such as "Race Over All," and read in part:

"The Volksfront is striving to restore self-determination to our Folk in North America. We wish to end alien influences in our nation and preserve our nation's (race's) wealth for its own children. The care of a culture should be entrusted to members of the race that produced it."



# Alabama church burned after Klan rally



Rev. Joe Lewis Dees, pastor of the burned church, wonders if there was a Klan connection.

MOBILE, Ala. — Four of the five white youths indicted on August 1 for burning down a black church in southern Alabama attended a Ku Klux Klan rally two days earlier. Baldwin County prosecutor David Whetstone said they were "young people agitated by Klansmen."

The youths are not known to be Klan members, but Alan Odom, one of the five who was indicted, told a reporter that the Klan rally created an atmosphere of "black hate." "They'd just had the KKK rally, got everybody worked up over white and black," Odom said in an interview before he was charged

In late August, three additional white youths were indicted for their accessory roles in the fire.

The June 30 burning of St. Joe Baptist Church in Little River was the latest in a rash of church arsons across the South that began in 1995. Most of the arsons were not found to be racially motivated, but a federal task force is looking into the Alabama case.

The rally by the Alabama White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Tensaw, 10 miles from Little River, drew about 75 people. During all the

speeches, shouts of "White Power" reverberated throughout the crowd. One speaker said the future of the Klan lies with children. Several speakers made clear their hatred of blacks, referring to them as "beasts," as well as their dislike of Jews, Hispanics and homosexuals.

The indicted youths who attended the rally were Odom, 18; Jeremy Boone, 19, who attended with his father; a relative, Brandy Boone, 18; and Michael Paul Woods, 18.

Two days later, the four teens, along with 21-year-old Kenneth Cumbie, allegedly decided to burn an abandoned car but couldn't find it. Officials allege that Brandy Boone yelled,



The five white youths charged with the church arson leave the Baldwin County courthouse following a hearing.

"Let's go burn the nigger church," before the group drove to St. Joe.

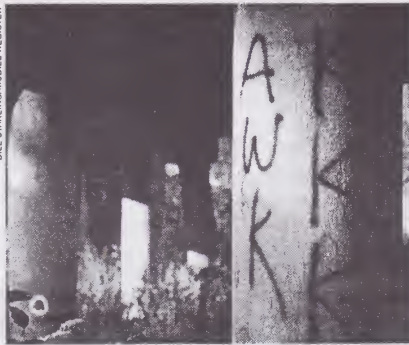
Rev. Joe Lewis Dees, the pastor of St. Joe, told reporters he believed there was a Klan connection. "I could be wrong," he said, "but I definitely think so."

Whetstone said investigators will continue looking for a criminal connection between the Klan, the suspects and the fire. "Something happened, something was sparked. We want to inquire about what that spark was," he said.

The youths were indicted under a law

enacted by Congress last year in response to the wave of church burnings. In June, the National Church Arson Task Force, a joint effort of the U.S. Treasury and Justice departments, issued a one-year anniversary report stating that evidence does not support the theory that a nationwide conspiracy is behind the burning of black churches. But the same report made clear that racism was involved in many church burnings, and that members and former members of hate groups were linked to some of them.

The case against the youths is expected to be scheduled for trial in October.



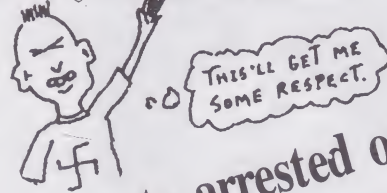
Klan graffiti was painted on a bridge at Little River in the days before the Klan rally.

**Missouri 9.10.97** — Five men Kansas City were charged with conspiracy for their alleged roles in a cross burning last month in Rushville, the FBI said. Agents claim the men were part of a mob that chanted "white power" slogans and burned a cross Aug. 22 in the front yard of Liza Costa, who is of Portuguese descent.

**Klan leader in cross dispute arrested on sex charges** — A leader in the Ku Klux Klan's fight to put up a cross downtown at Christmas agreed yesterday not to fight his transfer to Kentucky on sex charges.

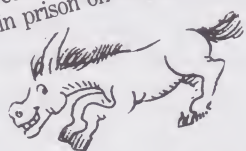
**Tony Gamble**, 35, of Covington, Ky., faces charges in Kenton County, Ky., of rape and sodomy involving a 13-year-old girl.

He waived extradition before Magistrate Bernat in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court. Gamble has been a spokesman for the Klan, sometimes calling himself the imperial wizard of the Tristate Knights Riders of the KKK.



The city unsuccessfully tried to keep the Klan from erecting the cross on Fountain Square. Gamble is accused of having a 1½-year relationship with a girl that started when she was 12. An investigation began when the girl and her mother reported the alleged incidents to police.

Independence, Ky., police Sgt. Brian Butler said an arrest warrant was issued last week, but officers could not find Gamble. Cincinnati police helped find him at a car dealership Monday afternoon and he was arrested. If convicted, Gamble could be sentenced to 20 years to life in prison on each count, Butler said.



## DUKE WINS GOP POST

Louisiana neo-nazi, David Duke regained a foothold in that state's Republican party when he was unanimously elected chairman of the Republican Executive Committee in Tammany Parish. A party official referred to the members of that committee as a "ren-



**Reston, VA • May 26, 1997** The letters "KKK" and a white power slogan were spray-painted at an elementary school.

**South Carolina 6.26.97** — The Ku Klux Klan has filed a \$200,000 suit against ex-Clarendon County Sheriff Hoyt Collins, claiming his deputies harassed KKK members to make them leave the county during a '96 rally. The Klan wants extra compensation for emotional distress.

egade group". Duke responded: "The current state and national leadership of the Republican Party are the truly renegade group. Because they have joined the enemies of our heritage who are transforming our great nation into a Third World reservation of the New Order. I and the St. Tammany R.E.C. are unashamedly committed to the survival and rights and heritage of the White race." The David Duke Report (issue 36).





## ARA Disrupts Detroit Area Nazi Concert

On Sat. evening Nov. 29, ARA organized a demonstration against a Resistance Records concert in a suburban Detroit VFW hall. Resistance Records is the largest and most notorious racist record label around. The featured band was Steel Cap. ARA had contacted the VFW prior to the show to see about getting them to cancel, but their lawyers balked for the fear of a petty lawsuit.

Leafletting in the neighborhood prior to the event revealed strong, but passive support for what we were doing. Apparently the area has historically been all-white, but recently some African-American families have been moving there. The fascists were trying to play on any local white fears to get a foothold in this area.

There was a strong police presence. We took 2 arrests. One nazi was arrested, but for what, we don't know. The charges are all misdemeanors and for the most part trumped up.

The action was a success, but not really a victory. It was successful in that we mobilized about 80-100 ARA'ers from 10 chapters and we definitely made our presence known to the boneheads. We succeeded in turning away a few cars of people coming to the show. Their attendance was small and they knew they could only have their show in peace due to the police presence. But it wasn't a 'victory' because we could not shut it down.

The cops were doing their best to be provocative, but ARA'ers were very good about not engaging with them in any foolish confrontations. As for chapters represented, there was Detroit, Macomb, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Traverse City, Columbus, Yellow Springs, as well as Toronto, Montreal, and Kitchener/Waterloo. This action can only serve to strengthen ARA's presence in the Detroit area. Good work, everyone!

**Oklahoma 8-19-97**  
Cushing — A \$35 million 960-bed private prison that opened in May and was supposed to be full by September has only three beds left, said Warden Twyla Snider. The state pays the prison \$41.95 per inmate per day for housing.

**Madison 6-5-97**  
Wisconsin's prison population has set a record this month: 14,000 people behind bars, officials said. The population is growing by 170 prisoners a month. The system is now nearly 50% over capacity.

## A NEW PARTY

We got a mailing from a group called the "New Party". It was written by Gloria Wilson, a New Party member elected to city council in Little Rock, Ark. Here's part of it: "I'm a 49 year-old community activist, a mother a grandmother and an African-American. Three years ago, I was elected as a New Party candidate. I'm just one of the 135 New Party candidates elected in 202 races.

I believe you share my disgust with the two major parties- the way the White House has been turned into a bed-and-breakfast for the rich and powerful; the way the Republicans promote tax breaks for the corporations and the rich in exchange for campaign contributions....

New Party candidates hold office in Little Rock and 15 other cities. In addition to electing officials, we've also won "living wage" campaigns in 3 cities, raising the pay of the poorest workers. Working with other activists, we stopped the illegal building of an industrial waste dump in a poor neighborhood in Chicago and ousted the corrupt politician who allowed it to be built....

We're starting locally—where we can win—and will move on to higher levels as our experience, resources and power increase. We build strong multi-racial chapters that can compete for political power at the local level...."

If you're into electoral politics, you can contact the New Party at 70-A Greenwich Ave., Suite 219, New York, NY. 10011.

**Utah 10-18-97**  
Utah County commissioners are planning to allow some inmates to work in private industry. The county would take 50% of wages. The remainder would be divided among the inmate, his or her families and unpaid fines. Utah County could eventually get \$438,000 a year, officials say.



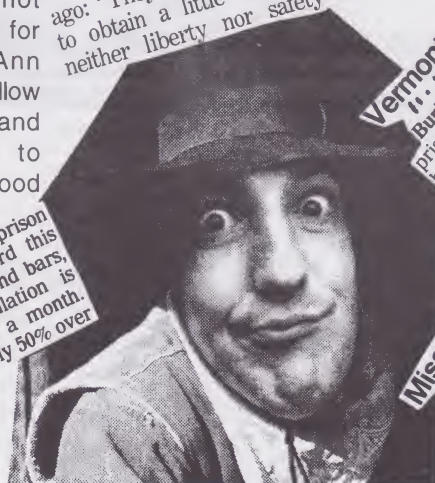
**Buffalo**  
— Former Attica inmate Frank Smith, 64, tortured 26 years ago when officers retook the prison after a deadly riot, became the first of the prisoners awarded damages when a federal jury recommended he receive \$4 million. 6-6-97

## THE JERICHO '98 MARCH

There Jericho March '98 will converge on the White House March 27 to demand amnesty for political prisoners. The March will focus attention on political prisoners and human rights violations in the United States. Political activists, such as Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal, are often falsely accused, unfairly convicted and given excessively harsh sentences. The Government and the Media don't recognize that this problem exists in the U.S. The March organizers hope that a massive turnout in the Nation's capitol will get the message out and lead to justice for the prisoners. If you are interested in getting involved, write Jericho '98 at 2502 W Division, Chicago, IL 60622 or call 773-278-6706.

**Lansing** — Gov. Engler asked lawmakers for money to build five new prisons. Estimated cost: \$230 million to build and \$98 million a year to run. In the meantime, Corrections Director Kenneth McGinnis said the department will have to start sending inmates to prisons in other states next month. Mich. 11-14-97

Benjamin Franklin put it so well years ago: "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

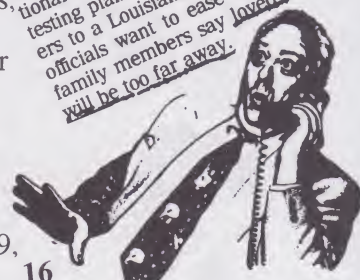


**Vermont 11-25-97**  
Burlington — A new women's prison should be located in Waterbury even if voters there oppose it, Gov. Dean said. The state plans to convert part of a state mental hospital into a women's facility.

**Missouri 11-14-97**  
Jefferson City — Charleston and Lick men's prisons, Gov. Carnahan's office announced. The 1,500-bed prisons are scheduled to open in 2000.

**Georgia 1-7-97**  
Atlanta — The prison population has continued to climb since Gov. Miller took office, Morris News Service reported. In his 6½-year tenure, the number of inmates grew 62.5%, from 22,338 to 36,318, records show.

**Idaho 6-26-97**  
Orofino — Family members of inmates at the Idaho Correctional Institution-Orofino are protesting plans to send 120 prisoners to a Louisiana prison. Idaho officials want to ease crowding, family members say loved ones will be too far away.



**PRISONS**

**Arizona 9-23-97**  
Mesa — Maricopa County supervisors meet Oct. 1 to work out some way to raise up to \$400 million to pay for a new jail. The jail system is bursting at the seams with 7,000 inmates and deteriorating with age, officials say.

**NO WAY I CAN LOSE!**

**New Mexico 11-14-97**  
Hobbs — Wackenhut Corrections Corp. hopes to have part of a 1,200-bed private prison up by Christmas.



# Is the Left Nuts? (Or Is It Me?)

MICHAEL MOORE

Is it me, or is the left completely nuts? I won't bore you with the details of October's Media and Democracy Congress, but suffice it to say that the left is still in fine form, completely ignoring anything that really matters to the American public. I'm convinced there's a good number of you who are simply addicted to listening to yourselves talk and talk and talk—MUMIA! PACIFICA! CUBA! ENOUGH ALREADY!

Speaking of talking to ourselves—just who the hell is reading this? Who is the *Nation* readership? Is it my brother-in-law, Tony, back in Flint, who last night was installing furnace ducts until 9 o'clock? Is it the bus driver at the airport who told me he's been cut back to a thirty-hour week so the airport commission won't have to pay the health insurance for his asthmatic daughter? Is it the woman at Sears who sells blouses by day and then waitresses at Denny's from 8 P.M. to midnight?

No. The person reading this would probably sympathize with the one who wrote the flier I saw at the media congress announcing a "Stop Police Brutality Demonstration." The flier promised a rally "from 4 P.M. UNTIL THE TRUTH COMES OUT!" Until the truth comes out? Let me tell you, friend, the truth ain't ever coming out to your rally, and neither is Tony the furnace installer, 'cause he's got mouths to feed. But you don't really want him there anyway, do you? What you really mean by saying that the demonstration is going to last "until the truth comes out" is that it will go deep into the night, until all self-serving, attention-starved "lefties" have had their hour and fifteen minutes at the podium. Get a clue! Go away!

Is it true what they say about "the left"—that it loves humanity but loathes people? I want to let you in on a little secret I've discovered: "The people" are already way ahead of "the left." After years of being downsized, rightsized, re-engineered and forced to work longer hours for less pay and fewer benefits, they already know from *their personal experience* that our economic system is unfair, unjust and undemocratic. They know the evil it does and the havoc it wreaks on their lives. They know that corporate



VINCENT X. KIRSCH

America is the enemy, that the media are telling them lies and that the Democrats and the Republicans are actually the same party, and that neither is worth voting for. Look at any Gallup poll and you'll see that the public is very "left" on all the issues—the majority are pro-choice, pro-environment, pro-labor.

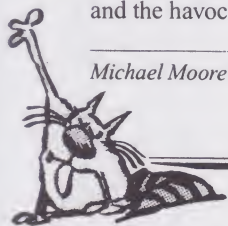
Yet they despise liberals. If they knew where to find the nutty left, they'd despise them, too. They see liberals, progressives and lefties as arrogant, self-righteous and dreadfully predictable.

They know you won't ever go have a beer with them, or talk to them about how the Indians did in the Series. Christ, can you even name a single Cleveland Indian?

And why should you? You've got *The Nation* and Pacifica, the food co-op and your Working Assets credit card. Don't get me wrong—I love *The Nation* and Pacifica and food co-ops and not supporting Citibank. But if you stop there and refuse to participate in the real world, how are you ever going to effect change? Back in the eighties thousands of you went to Nicaragua in Sandinista brigades. Yes, that was important work; our government was killing innocent people. But I never saw a single one of you come to Flint while the world's largest company was destroying the lives of 30,000 families. Where were you when we needed you? The people in Flint were ready—Jesse Jackson beat Dukakis by a 9-to-1 margin there. In the white suburbs, Jackson beat him by a 4-to-1 margin! You should have come! The right wing did. They organized the Michigan Militia. It's no accident that Terry Nichols is from the Flint area.

Here's the part I don't get. Remember the antiwar movement, when we didn't have the American public on our side and actually had to go out and *convince* people the war was wrong? That was tough, but we did it. These days, the difficult organizing work has already been done for us by Big Business. It has spent the past decade destroying the middle class and brutalizing the poor. Beating up on the poor, I get—that's the way it's always been. But the middle class? What a stupid error in judgment—and now there are millions of Americans waiting to vent their anger and frustration.

Michael Moore's show *TV Nation* has just been released on home video.

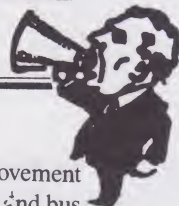


And where are *we*? Inside New York's Cooper Union chanting for Mumia! I want Mumia to live, I've signed the petitions, I've helped pay for the ads—hell, I'll personally go and kick the butt of the governor of Pennsylvania! But, for chrissakes, the woman working at Sears just wants to be able to spend an hour with her kids before she heads off to Denny's. Can't we help her? Do you *want* to help her?

It's taken me a while to figure it all out, and after last month's Media and Democracy Congress I think I have the answer: Because "the left" has lost so many battles, it now doesn't know how to live any other way. It's kind of scary, isn't it, to think that we could actually reach a mass audience. Or that after all these years of failure, real change could actually occur in our lifetime. Better to fight among ourselves! It's an uncomfortable, unfamiliar feel-

ing, isn't it, to get a whiff of a real populist progressive movement taking shape. Better that we keep those furnace installers and bus drivers away from us—they don't read Chomsky anyway!

The signs are everywhere, but "the left" can't read a road map. There's a whole New Politics taking place, and it's being led by U.P.S. drivers and Borders bookstore workers. I say, with all due affection and appreciation for all of you and your causes, get over yourselves, start talking like a real person, then start talking to real people. You could begin by hitting 0 every time you get a robot when you call 411. Have a chat with the human operator—the phone company will eventually have to hire more of them. Or sponsor a bowling team and put the name of your local Labor Party or environmental group on their shirts. Or try bowling yourself. It's where you'll meet Americans.



The Nation : 11/17/97



# Bishops to parents: Do not reject gay children

10.1.97

The parents of gay children should put love and support for their sons and daughters ahead of church doctrine that condemns homosexual activity, U.S. Catholic bishops say in a groundbreaking pastoral letter released Tuesday.

The bishops say gay orientation is not chosen and parents must not reject gay children in a society full of rejection and discrimination. "God does not love someone any less simply because he or she is homosexual," the letter says.

USA TODAY • MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1997



**Pride on wheels:** Dykes on Bikes, including Jennifer Yung and Danielle Tanner, lead off San Francisco's parade, as per tradition.

By Robin Weiner, AP

**PROTEST PARTY:** Demonstrators who rallied in 100-degree heat outside Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, Calif., Friday were served water, soft drinks and cookies by Disney employees. Disney has been under fire by Christian groups for what they see as pro-homosexual policies. Disney says it is committed to "values that include tolerance and compassion and respect for everybody." 9.9.97

**THANK YOU:** Hundreds of parents of gays and lesbians demonstrated at Disney World to thank the park for supporting gays despite boycotts from the religious right. 9.16.97

**LESBIAN SEEKS ASYLUM:** A federal appeals court in San Francisco revived a lesbian's political asylum case, saying Russian prosecutors' efforts to forcibly "cure" her homosexuality amounted to persecution. The court did not grant asylum to Alla Pitcherskaia, 35, but told the Board of Immigration Appeals to reconsider her case. The board had ruled that even if Pitcherskaia was confined to psychiatric wards and threatened with shock therapy, as she claimed, she was not persecuted because the actions were "intended to treat... illness, not to punish." 6.26.97

**HUMAN RIGHTS SPEECH:** Homosexual rights activists are touting President Clinton's agreement to be the keynote speaker at a gala dinner of a national gay and lesbian rights group Nov. 8 as an historic first. "The president's attendance will mark the first time a sitting president has participated at a gay and lesbian civil rights event," said Elizabeth Birch of the Human Rights Campaign. 9.24.97



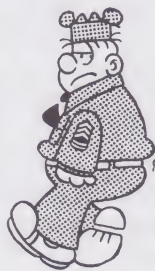
**GAY FLAP:** Playwright and gay activist Larry Kramer (Yale class of '57) has accused his alma mater of endorsing a professorship in gay studies. Provost Alison Richard says gay and lesbian studies is too narrow a field for a permanent professorship. Retorts Kramer, "If you are willing to teach African-American history or women's studies, why are you not willing to teach gay studies?"

## Gay & Lesbian

## Moving Pictures

Citizens Against Discrimination (CAD), a grassroots activist organization, has called for an entertainment boycott of North Carolina — "due to a passage of recent anti-gay resolutions in several counties of the state." CAD founder Charles Merrill is appealing to leaders in the film and television industry, hoping "to make producers aware of the homophobia existing on the books in North Carolina and existing in the U.S. Senate from Senator Jesse Helms and Senator Lauch Faircloth." CAD's ultimate objective is the rescinding of those anti-gay laws and, according to Merrill, business in the state has already "declined dramatically."

"Major television networks and motion picture studios have collectively canceled many films which were scheduled for production in North Carolina," said Merrill. "Currently, we're encouraging Oprah Winfrey to relocate the production of her new feature, 'The Wedding,' which is scheduled for filming in Wilmington, NC."



**GAY SOLDIER DISMISSED:** Lt. Col. Steve Loomis, 50, a decorated 20-year veteran, says he will appeal his dismissal from the Army for being gay. The dismissal, ordered by a board of inquiry in Dallas, came one week before Loomis would have been eligible for full pension and benefits. Loomis' lawyer, David Sheldon, said some evidence used in the case had been improperly obtained after an arsonist torched the officer's home. Civilian authorities confiscated a videotape at the home and turned it over to the Army. That video showed Loomis participating in homosexual acts.

**Gay couple allowed joint adoption** 10.23.97



**Celebrating ruling:** Michael Galluccio, left, and Jon Hold-en hold Adam, 2, after a Hackensack, N.J., judge granted them joint adoption. Activists say they are the second gay couple in the state with such a decree. Adam's mom was HIV-positive. The men took Adam in as a foster child when he was 3 months old.

By Mike Derer, AP

**New York** 9.19.97 — The Medal of Valor was awarded to police officer Carlos Crespo, 32, who was stabbed in '95 by a taxi driver who burst into the 24th Precinct. The intruder was shot to death. Crespo is the first openly gay city cop to be awarded the medal.

**Annapolis** 10.31.97 — An appellate court reversed a circuit judge's ruling that barred two children from visiting their gay father any time he is in the company of anyone with "homosexual tendencies." The lower court made no findings of possible harm to the children, the higher court said.

■ WBMA-TV of Birmingham, Ala. — the only ABC affiliate to refuse to air the coming-out episode of *Ellen* — has thrown in the towel. The station also refused to air later episodes in which Ellen (the character) went on (and on) to tell friends and relatives she's gay. With reruns rampant, WBMA has given up the fight. ABC plans to show the episode again next week, and it'll air on BMA. 10.5.97



## ONE WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

## Abortion: can we go beyond both sides?

By Ami Neiberger

I remember the day we went to the clinic. We prayed and parked across the street. We took our signs and joined the sidewalk litany in front of the clinic. We walked and prayed. One middle-aged man sang hymns off-key as he plodded along. Behind him a mother rolled her baby and hummed lullabies. In stony silence, a young republican student marched along. An elderly woman crossed herself and prayed softly. We were there to protest the abortions taking place in that building.

The sun bristled and the heat beat down. Then they came. The pro-choicers. They sat on the steps hurling slogans and obscenities at us, seasoning it with potshots at religion. One of their men stood near us, and his eyes fixed upon me with a hostile gaze. Cars honked as they drove by. It was a horrible place. Trying to ignore the distractions around me, I put one foot in front of the other and tried to focus on what I had come to do, which was to pray for the women having an abortion that day.

## ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE

But I found my mind wandering. I almost began to weep that day, not because I stood in front of an abortion clinic, but because I stood on the razor's edge of the great abortion divide, and because there seemed to be no common ground. No place for dialogue, no place for compromise, and definitely no place for a religious woman like myself in the women's movement. It's hard to place your feet on common ground, when all you have to stand on are circular arguments, belittling epithets, hollow rhetoric, and rudeness—it's not just the pro-choicers who behave abominably on the picket line, lest we forget the violence against abortion providers. The violent ac-

tions of a few were quickly apologized for by the mainstream pro-life movement. But its hesitancy to take responsibility for fostering an atmosphere which is likely to provoke violence, is what prevents them from washing the bloody stains of Brookline from their own hands.

The abortion debate has ground to a hostile stalemate on the clinic doorstep. Clinic workers fear that another gun-toting Salvi, nourished on the gory rhetoric of protest, lurks behind the placards of peaceful protesters. Abortion rights protesters fear that their right to protest a perceived moral evil will be trampled by legislation, their message about God loving everyone is peppered with the bullet holes of violence.

## CONCERN FOR WOMEN

The stagnating polarization of the abortion controversy is painfully obvious. Its origin lies shrouded in stereotyping, dogmatic ideology, heartfelt emotion and deeply-held conviction. Both sides are responsible for the polarization of the debate. It's time to build a bridge across the great abortion divide. Despite their differences, the opposing camps share a concern for women. Encouraged to "do it all," women are trapped between the competing demands of motherhood and professional life with little support and heavy responsibility. Abortion gives men a means of denying responsibility for fertility, shackling women with the obligation to "take care of it." Lax laws allow deadbeat dads to avoid child support, while lower wages for women force single mothers to struggle. Improved contraception for women, funding for day care, tax cuts for working families, equal pay for equal work, deadbeat dad pay-up plans, improved adoption services, and foster care reform, are all potential issues for common ground.

It is time to begin a respectful dialogue that encourages communication and cooperation. Both sides must renounce rhetorical stereotyping. Anti-abortion rights supporters should stop caricaturing its opponents as bra-burning liberal sluts out to vacuum every womb dry. Likewise, some in the pro-choice camp needs to stop depicting their enemies as ignorant buffoons overcome by religious fanaticism.

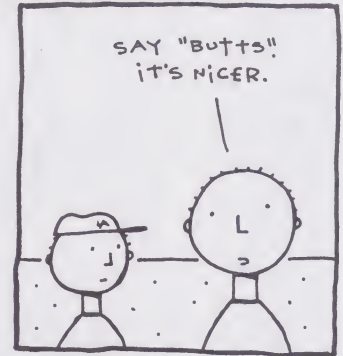
With 1.5 million abortions per year in the United States, both sides need to engage in a dialogue about the circumstances that lead women to choose abortion. It is tragic that women get pregnant because they lack birth control. It is tragic that teenagers get pregnant because they think that a baby will provide them with unconditional love.

Although they will continue to disagree on many things, both sides agree that reducing the need for abortions is a worthy goal. Sex education, self-esteem building for young people, and community mentors are among the strategies that can help to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies, and as a result, the abortion rate.

I never went back to that clinic, although I attended other pro-life demonstrations over the next couple of years. My thinking began to change about the abortion issue, and I now support a woman's right to choose abortion.

However, feminist talk of liberation and celebration of the right to abort "just cells" still evokes a repulsive shudder in my soul, because abortion is about loss. If we can begin a dialogue, and learn to place our feet on common ground, then we will find a way across the great abortion divide.

Part of this essay was printed as, "Abortion: Finding Our Common Ground," in the Independent Florida Alligator, September 5, 1996.



**ABORTIONS DOWN:** The number of abortions reported to the federal government dropped in 1995, continuing a five-year trend, says the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. States reported 1,210,883 abortions, down 4.5% from the previous year. About 20 of every 1,000 women ages 15 to 44 had an abortion, the lowest rate since 1975, the CDC says. The private Alan Guttmacher Institute in New York collects numbers directly from abortion providers and says CDC numbers probably are low. However, Guttmacher data also indicates falling rates. Among possible reasons: better birth control.

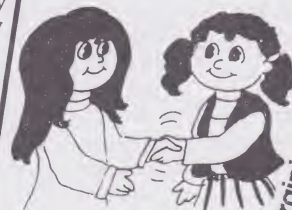
## Keeping Religion Out of Politics

## KEEPING UP WITH THE PROMISE KEEPERS

An estimated 500,000 people attended the October 4 "Stand in the Gap" rally sponsored by Promise Keepers in Washington, D.C. Group leaders announced new goals and a restructuring for the organization, including expansion overseas.

One troubling aspect of Promise Keepers is the concept of "shepherding". It is sort of like a pyramid power scheme where the people on top control every aspect of their "flock" or follower's lives. At the family level, that means "the Husband". PK founder, Bill McCartney, told rally attendees "We propose that every man returns home and submits to the authority of a local shepherd... You have to say to your Pastor 'how high, how far and how much!'"

According to the September *Charisma* magazine, falling attendance at Promise Keepers stadium events has led the group to layoff 25 to 30% of their workforce and close or relocate offices.



Virginia

Norfolk

9-7

Howell

State Sen. Janet D.

gate Pat Robertson has asked Atty.

manipulation's use of his hu-

manitarian organization's airpines

erent. Operation Blessing is a tax-

exempt charity formed to provide

medical and hunger relief.

Illinois

Collinsville

9-7

threatening to sue after school officials

said teachers must abide by a moral

code, which discourages drinking, curs-

ing and smoking. It wasn't clear if the

code applies after school.

Elitism and stereotyping are destructive concepts









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*"Eww, Gross! Let's Call ARA."* (Story P. 14)